



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
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News Release

3 DANGEROUS GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED BY SOUTH FLORIDA GANG SUPPRESSION TASK FORCE

A 19-year-old Latin King Gang Member wanted for murder was among the arrested

MIAMI—Jesus Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Miami today announced the arrests of three dangerous gang members living in South Florida.

The arrests were made by South Florida's Gang Suppression Task Force, a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative comprised of special agents and officers working for ICE, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), the West Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, the Miami-Dade School Board Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and the South Miami Police Department.



Among the arrested was 19-year-old Pedro Quintero, a Latin King gang member wanted by law enforcement officials in Lee County, Florida based on outstanding murder charges. Quintero, a U.S. citizen, was arrested Friday and is awaiting extradition to Lee County where he will face murder charges.

Also arrested here Wednesday were Honduran nationals Selvin Valle, 21, and 23-year-old Alexander Martinez. Both are gang members of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and have been charged by ICE for being illegally present in the country. Martinez and Valle will remain in ICE custody awaiting the outcome of their respective cases.

"Law enforcement partnerships are what keep criminals off the streets," said Torres. "These arrests are a testament to the great working relationship between ICE and the state and local government."

These are the latest arrests under ICE's Operation Community Shield. The initial target of Operation Community Shield was the MS-13, which is the largest and most violent street gang in the country. In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities. Since the launch of Operation Community Shield, there have been more than 1,300 street gang members arrested nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.